

Message Text

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70

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGR-05 CU-02 AID-05

EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 USIA-06 DHA-02 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ABF-01 OMB-01 /102 W

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R 141359Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1787

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PORG, ILO, XZ, DA

SUBJECT: DANISH REACTION TO U.S. NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM
ILO

REF: A.STATE 259540

B. HELSINKI 2445

1. SUMMARY. DANISH REACTION HAS BEEN GENERALLY POSITIVE
TO SUBMISSION OF U.S. NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM
ILO. DANISH TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO) AND MINISTER OF
LABOR, IN CONCERT WITH THEIR NORDIC COUNTERPARTS, ARE
STUDYING MEANS TO SUPPORT THE THRUST OF THE U.S. INITIATIVE.
THEY ARE REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING A JOINT NORDIC APPROACH TO
THE U.S. AS A MEANS OF CLARIFYING THE MINIMUM CONDITIONS
REQUIRED TO PREVENT U.S. WITHDRAWAL. END SUMMARY

2. DANISH TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO) PRESIDENT THOMAS
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NIELSEN'S IMMEDIATE REACTION TO U.S. NOTICE OF INTENT TO
WITHDRAW FROM ILO WAS EXCESSIVELY POSITIVE. NIELSEN MADE

A PUBLIC STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT IN HIS OPINION THE DANISH LO SHOULD CONSIDER THE APPROPRIATENESS OF ITS OWN CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN THE ILO IF THAT ORGANIZATION CONTINUES TO BE HEAVILY POLITICIZED. THIS IMPROMPTU COMMENT, BROADCAST NOV 7 OR 8 ON DANISH RADIO NEWS, HAS SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN CAREFULLY QUALIFIED. LO INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY JOHN SVENNINGSSEN CALLED LABATT TO UNDERSCORE THE FACT THAT THIS WAS PERSONAL COMMENT AND THAT SUCH A MOVE HAD NOT EVEN BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE LO'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT SUCH A REACTION WAS NOT LIKELY TO RESULT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERATION OF THE U.S. MOVE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE LO, IN CONCERT WITH THE ORTHER NORDIC TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS, IS SEEKING A MEANS TO SUPPORT THE THRUST OF THE U.S. INITIATIVE.

3. SVENNINGSSEN SAID THE NORDIC TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (NTUC) HAS HAD UNDER CONSIDERATION A JOINT APPEAL TO THE NORDIC GOVERNMENTS IN THE MATTER, BUT THAT AGREEMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE OF SUCH AN APPEAL WAS UNLIKELY IN VIEW OF THE DIFFERING POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE NORDIC WORKER REPS ON THE PLO-OBSERVER ISSUE AT THE LAST ILO CONFERENCE. CONSEQUENTLY, EACH NORDIC LO INTENDED TO TAKE UP THE MATTER INDIVIDUALLY WITH ITS RESPECTIVE LABOR AND SOCIAL MINISTRIES; THE DANISH LO WOULD BE ACTING ON THIS NEXT WEEK.

4. THE DANISH EMPLOYERS FEDERATION, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS NOT REACTED PUBLICLY. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ADVISOR JOHANNES AMUNDSEN TOLD LABATT THAT HE HAS HEARD NOTHING FROM THE SCANDINAVIAN EMPLOYERS GROUP ON THE U.S.MOVE. PERSONALLY, AMUNDSEN SAID HE THOUGHT THE U.S. CRITICISM OF THE ILO "WELL-PLACED", AND HE HOPED THAT "SUFFICIENT" CHANGES IN THE ILO COULD BE ACHIEVED TO AVOID THE EVENTUALITY OF A U.S. WITHDRAWAL.

5. AS REPORTED REFTEL (B), THE NORDIC LABOR MINISTERS ARE ALSO CURRENTLY DISCUSSING THE QUESTION OF THE ILO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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AND ITS FUTURE ROLE. IT WAS AGREED AT THEIR MEEITNG IN OSLO OCT 31, BEFORE THE CONTENT OF THE U.S. LETTER WAS KNOWN, THAT THEY WOULD CONSULT THEIR RESPECTIVE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS AND RETURN TO THE SUBJECT AT THEIR NEXT MEETING IN STOCKHOLM, NOV 26. WE UNDERSTNAD FROM SEVERAL SOURCES THAT A JOINT NORDIC APPROACH TO THE USG IS BEING STUDIED. THIS IS NOT YET FIRM; THE LABOR MINISTERS ARE WAITING FOR THE SUGGESTIONS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE LOS. THE GENERAL IDEA, HOWEVER, IS THAT SUCH A DEMARCHE WOULD BE USEFUL IN CLARIFYING

THE CHANGES REQUIRED IN THE ILO TO MEET U.S. CONCERNS.
DEANS

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